

# BOOK REVIEWS



**BILL MAULDIN'S ARMY.** By Bill Mauldin. Presidio Press, 1992. 384 Pages. \$30.00 Hardbound, \$14.95 Softbound.

This book is a reprint of Bill Mauldin's earlier edition, which was originally published by Sloan in 1949. This superb compendium of Mauldin cartoons from 1940-1945 will awaken memories among those who served during those hectic years, but it will also attract a much wider audience. Anyone who has served with ground troops will recognize Willie and Joe, their antagonists and their buddies, and the trials the U.S. soldier has had to face as long as he has served this great nation.

The subject matter for the cartoons in the first section of the book—aptly named “Garrison Life, Training, and Maneuvers”—was provided by the first Louisiana Maneuvers, held in the fall of 1941. In a series of cartoons that could only have been conceived by someone who was there, Mauldin follows his characters through the tribulations of guard duty, K.P. (*kitchen police* to the uninitiated), field exercises, and preparations for overseas deployment. As today's Army again plans Louisiana Maneuvers as part of its Battle Lab concept, these subjects are still timely.

Mauldin's attention to detail will not go unnoticed: Leafing through the pages, the reader sees the Army's transition from the World War I dishpan helmet to the model that was to serve our fighting men until the 1970s. Likewise, he will see presented in faithful detail the replacement of the 1903 Springfield rifle by the M1 Garand, the change from a water-cooled to an air-cooled machine gun, and the myriad other weapons, vehicles, and pieces of equipment of soldiers on both sides of the war. Equally accurate are the sarcasm and sometimes bitter humor of combat troops occasionally faced with the arbitrary regulations of rear-echelon types whose war seems to bear little resemblance to the front-line world of Willie and Joe.

Like Mauldin's earlier book, *Up Front* (The World Publishing Company, 1945) this one offers lessons to the soldier, the leader, and in fact to all of us. The subjects of interservice rivalry, propaganda, personal

hygiene, and creature comforts are all here, and in terms we can all understand.

This is not a book you can easily put down; its subject matter is particularly timely now that we are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Second World War. Mauldin served three years with the 45th Infantry Division as it fought its way up the Italian boot in some of the bloodiest fighting of the war, and the reality of combat provides a backdrop for the humorous situations in which his characters find themselves. What this book does particularly well is reveal soldiers as they are: ordinary people who often find themselves in situations not of their own choosing, but who are doing their level best to get the job done.

If you don't already have it, buy this book, read it, keep it in a place where your guests can find it. The price is very reasonable, and you're well advised to buy the clothbound edition, because it will get a lot of use.

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**A PORTRAIT OF THE STARS AND STRIPES, VOLUME II.** By Bud Hannings. Seniram Publishing, Inc, 1991. 946 Pages. \$50.00.

If your library does not include a chronological history of World War II, this is the book to buy. Bud Hannings has painstakingly compiled the most readable, detailed chronography available today. Volume I of *A Portrait of Stars and Stripes*, published in 1989, traced the history of our nation—and the men and women who served her—from shortly before the Boston Massacre until the end of World War I. Volume II picks up with January 1919 and chronicles events through 31 December 1945. An interesting adjunct to the second volume is a chronological listing of events which—although primarily nonmilitary in nature—influenced the military operations that make up most of the book.

To be sure, there are countless other books on World War II, as well as chronographies that highlight key events. There are also listings of units and their campaigns, casualties, and still other volumes on the heroism of our men and women in uniform, but Hannings

has brought all of this—and far more—together in one volume.

Throughout the book, among the accounts of great battles and the leaders credited with victory and defeat are stories of individual heroism. Hannings has added the human dimension that is all too often missing from histories, and his book is the better for it.

What is conspicuously missing from the book is parochialism; the author freely credits sailors, airmen, Marines, soldiers, and all others who contributed to the overthrow of the Axis powers. In an age when interservice rivalry has been supplanted by bitter competition for defense dollars, we would do well to revisit the enormous cooperative effort that was World War II, and realize that Ben Franklin's remark to John Hancock on the value of hanging together is still relevant.

Hannings also offers a number of footnotes to history, and highlights those forgotten warriors who sacrificed their own interests for a greater good. One of these is Major George Jordan, the U.S. liaison officer with the Russians, who was tasked with overseeing the implementation of the Lend-Lease Program. He saw the program not from the perspective of Washington—where the effort was viewed as it was *intended* to be—but from the reality of Great Falls, Montana; Alaska; and on the ground in Russia itself. There, the waste, abuse, and blatant fraud of our Ally were readily apparent, and Jordan repeatedly tried to alert U.S. State Department and congressional authorities, efforts that resulted in his being replaced in June 1944. He would later testify in congressional hearings in 1952, after the damage had been done: By 1944 three-quarters of a ton of uranium compounds, along with 2.2 pounds of uranium metal—more than 48 percent of the total U.S. stockpile—had been shipped to Russia, in spite of a Manhattan Project embargo on such shipments. Jordan also revealed the transfer of classified documents on atom bomb development to the Russians, along with thousands of documents, looted from the U.S. Patent Office files, on such subjects as helicopters, bomb-sights, and ammunition.

Such accounts demonstrate the exhaustive

research that went into the compilation of this text, and make it an invaluable source for anyone desiring to gain an appreciation of the complexity of the war effort.

*A Portrait of the Stars and Stripes, Volume II*, belongs on the shelves of every library. Today, half a century after the fact, it is all too easy to take for granted the enormous sacrifices that World War II demanded of America and her Allies, but Bud Hannings has told the story in human terms, and in unabashedly patriotic language that can only evoke pride in our nation and her armed forces.

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**DAK TO: THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE IN SOUTH VIETNAM'S CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, JUNE-NOVEMBER 1967.** By Edward F. Murphy. Presidio Press, 1993. 384 Pages. \$24.95. Reviewed by Major General Albert H. Smith, Jr., U.S. Army Retired.

Today's professional infantrymen are equipped, conditioned, and trained better than their predecessors who fought in the Vietnam War—with one notable exception: The soldiers of the 503d Infantry Regiment (Airborne) were as good as any fighting men our Army has ever sent into battle. Assigned to the elite, all-volunteer 173d Airborne Brigade, these potent warriors—their platoons, companies, and battalions completely combat ready—deployed from Okinawa to South Vietnam in May 1965.

Ed Murphy's newest book chronicles the experiences of the 503d from early successful engagements against the Viet Cong through the fiercest kind of fighting against North Vietnamese Army regulars in the Central Highlands. The author uses previously unpublished information, gathered in exhaustive interviews with more than 80 survivors, to describe a series of bloody battles around Dak To.

Vietnam's Central Highlands contain some of the most difficult terrain in the world. There are continuous rain forests with huge hardwood trees 250 feet high. Where sunlight filters through the leafy canopy, the jungle floor is covered with dense undergrowth that restricts visibility to a few yards and makes movement difficult. How U.S. combat infantrymen, their NCOs, lieutenants, and captains fought a tough, well-trained enemy in this terrible environment is what Murphy's narrative is all about.

His masterful portrayal of brave soldiers trying desperately to accomplish seemingly impossible missions under such conditions provides unlimited material that might be

used in professional development sessions for officers and noncommissioned officers at all levels. In addition to detailed accounts of small-unit operations, brave deeds, leadership, weapon employment, support problems, and the like, readers will also want to discuss such subjects as "body count" and friendly-fire casualties. (General William Westmoreland and others in the chain of command were shocked to learn that 29 percent of the dead paratroopers were killed by friendly fire.)

In my judgment, *Dak To* should be required reading throughout the Army's school system. Certainly, combat arms students will be most interested in the total coverage. But those enrolled in the Chaplain's School will not find a better combat role-model than Chaplain Charles J. Waters. As recorded on a dozen pages, he was universally loved in the 173d and earned the Medal of Honor for his brave deeds on Hill 875, where he was killed on 19 November 1967.

The author is to be congratulated on a superb, exciting historical work. He also deserves a special salute for the 16-page photographic summary and for the glossary of Vietnam-era terminology, which will be helpful to readers of all ages.

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**BEYOND THE SOVIET THREAT: THE U.S. ARMY IN A POST-COLD WAR ENVIRONMENT.** By James Berry Motley. Lexington Books, 1991. 225 Pages. \$29.95. Reviewed by Colonel Cole C. Kingseed, United States Army.

With the demise of the Soviet empire and the end of the Cold War that dominated American strategic thought for half a century, the U.S. Army now confronts an uncertain future with respect to roles and missions. *Beyond the Soviet Threat* is an attempt to address the challenges that face the Army of the 1990s. The author's intent is to foster open discussion of the problems facing the Army and how it can be best organized to protect U.S. interests during a period of rapid change and uncertainty.

Written two months after Saddam Hussein's invasion of Iraq in August 1990, some of the material, such as Soviet policy toward the Third World, was soon dated. What makes the book valuable to the Army community, however, is the author's analysis of five central themes that affect the Army of the future. These themes focus on the realignment of the Army's forward-based deployment posture, the move to a new European security system, the future role of the Reserve Components, the implications

for AirLand Battle doctrine in future conflicts, and a transitional era during which the Army can restructure itself with a new strategy focused on small-war contingencies. These areas provide the foundation for subsequent chapters.

Whether or not the reader agrees with every aspect of Motley's analysis is not as important as the serious dialogue the author hopes to foster. He concludes, not surprisingly, that the Army must come to grips with the major changes occurring in a multipolar, interdependent world. In planning for the future, the Army must deal with NATO and the problems of small wars, as well as with ways in which the Active Army and the Reserve Components can work together in a more synergistic role to insure the protection of U.S. interests.

In a final warning, Motley challenges the Army to create a structure and an infrastructure of the communications and logistics facilities it will need to fight successfully on the relatively unsophisticated Third World battlefields of the 21st century.

In summary, this book provides provocative analysis of the challenges facing the Army in the post-Cold War environment. The book will be most helpful to the national security community, policy and decision makers, and officers working on the strategic issues confronting the U.S. Army.

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**RAIDERS OR ELITE INFANTRY? THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE U.S. ARMY RANGERS FROM DIEPPE TO GRENADA.** By David W. Hogan, Jr. Contributions in Military Studies, Number 128. Greenwood Press. 296 Pages. \$47.95. Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Albert N. Garland, United States Army Retired.

Dave Hogan, a historian at the Army's Center of Military History and a long-time student of so-called "elite" units, has rendered a fine service with this solid historical account of the Army's Ranger establishment, from its first modern appearance in 1942 to the present. Along the way, he touches lightly on other "elite" units, such as the Special Forces and its various spin-offs during the Vietnam War, Merrill's Marauders, the Alamo Scouts, and the 1st Special Service Force.

Hogan stresses certain themes throughout his study: a lack of clear-cut doctrine for the employment of Ranger units; a certain antipathy toward special units on the part of line unit and higher commanders; the misuse of Ranger units, particularly during World

War II and the Korean War; and the occasional inability of Ranger commanders to make their views known and accepted by higher authorities. For example, he believes that only one Ranger unit during World War II—the 6th Ranger Battalion in the Pacific—was employed correctly, and this one largely because it had a good friend at 6th Army headquarters.

The military professional today, and particularly Ranger unit commanders, should read this book and digest and discuss its contents. These readers should specifically note that Ranger units have not always been with us—a five-year gap in the 1940s, a 17-year gap in the 1950s and 1960s—and that they may not be with us in the future unless definite roles and missions for them are laid down in cement and then adhered to by all concerned. The action on 3 October 1993 in Somalia, for example, raises disturbing questions: Were the Rangers properly employed? Was there a proper chain of command? Was the action beyond the capabilities of the Ranger units? Three Ranger battalions were lost in Italy in early 1944 for many of the same reasons that surfaced in Mogadishu.

Again, Hogan has written a solid historical book. Although it is basically his doctoral dissertation, it reads far better than many I have seen recently. He deserves a round of applause.

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**BRAXTON BRAGG AND CONFEDERATE DEFEAT: VOLUME I.** By Grady McWhiney. University of Alabama Press, 1991. 421 Pages. \$19.95.

**BRAXTON BRAGG AND CONFEDERATE DEFEAT: VOLUME II.** By Judith Lee Hallock. University of Alabama Press, 1991. 300 Pages. \$29.95. Reviewed by Major Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force Retired.

With the publication of this two-volume biography, Confederate General Braxton Bragg has become the subject of one of the most detailed biographies of Southern generals—after, of course, the more renowned Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. Interestingly, the first volume of this study was originally published in 1969 by Dr. McWhiney, and the work has waited until now to be brought to completion (with both volumes being issued together).

Braxton Bragg, a North Carolinian from a family of poor reputation, graduated from West Point in 1837 and took his commission in the artillery. He served in the Florida Seminole campaigns where his health seemed quite precarious; then he found him-

self in even more serious trouble with the Army's senior leaders in Washington. His flirtations with the attentions of Congress, in fact, resulted in his eventual court-martial.

Bragg's personality quirks also led to the story (perhaps apocryphal) about a request he made for supplies, which he subsequently walked across the post and denied to himself in his capacity as post quartermaster. His commander noted that Bragg had quarreled with everyone else and was now quarreling with himself.

Bragg's military star and reputation ascended, despite his previous troubles, during the 1848 war with Mexico. His artillerymen performed in an outstanding manner on several occasions, winning Bragg brevet promotions to lieutenant colonel and also making him one of the nationally recognized heroes emerging from these campaigns.

Just before the Civil War, Bragg left the army for civilian life but wasted no time in donning gray when the war began. His initial service was in command of forces facing Union Fort Pickens at Pensacola, Florida. He was dispatched to help with the troop concentration at Corinth, Mississippi, in early 1862 and led a corps into battle at Shiloh.

In a matter of months, Bragg was placed in command of the western Confederate army called the Army of Tennessee. He led it through the disappointing Kentucky campaign in 1862, Stone's River, and the smashing victory at Chickamauga Creek. Following his disastrous leadership at Chattanooga and Missionary Ridge, Bragg asked to be replaced, and Confederate president Jefferson Davis complied. Instead of being sent to an obscure post, or home to await further orders, Bragg was brought to Richmond where he assumed duties as Davis's senior military advisor and served until the war's end.

Both of these volumes, which divide the story at early 1863, are well researched and well written. The authors—using the widest possible variety of historical sources to support their studies—provide numerous insights into the life, thoughts, and actions of Bragg and his fellow Confederates. They provide in-depth coverage of the serious animosities between Bragg and his subordinate commanders, detailing the conflict, both on the battlefield and behind the lines. The result of this biographical set is well worth the wait.

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**VIETNAM: THE HELICOPTER WAR.** By Philip D. Chinnery. Naval

Institute Press, 1991. 189 Pages. Reviewed by Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

The helicopter, for very good reason, became the symbol of the Vietnam War. The very nature of the conflict was shaped by the pervasiveness of the chopper. This large folio pictorial history is the first chronological narrative to cover the entire conflict from the viewpoint of the helicopter crewman.

Philip Chinnery, author of two previous pictorials on Vietnam and several other books on air warfare, mixes a year-by-year narrative history and personal stories with a fine collection of annotated photographs (many of them taken by pilots and previously unpublished). He includes all the military services and every type of equipment and mission. Several informative appendixes list helicopter units, casualties, and organizational structures.

Written for both the general reader and the air combat aficionado, the book is a most useful contribution.

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**FOR KING AND KAISER: THE MAKING OF THE PRUSSIAN ARMY OFFICER, 1860-1914.** By Steven E. Clemente. Greenwood Press, 1992. 280 Pages. \$45.00. Reviewed by Dr. Charles E. White, Infantry School Historian.

*For King and Kaiser* is the first detailed study in English of Prussian officer education during the Imperial Period. Author Steven Clemente shapes his thesis with a discussion of the educational tradition General Gerhard von Scharnhorst and his associates attempted to establish during the Prussian Reform Era (1807-1819). He then surveys Prussian secondary education and its link to officer selection and training in the years after 1819.

In the main portion of the book, following these introductory chapters, the author examines the three pillars of Prussian officer education—the nine cadet schools (which Scharnhorst tried to abolish), the 13 war schools (which Scharnhorst created to provide basic military education to those who wanted to earn commissions), and the Berlin War Academy (which Scharnhorst established to provide a three-year advanced military education for a select few). Clemente concludes that the quality of Prussian officer education declined during the Imperial Period.

This conclusion is nothing new. In fact, it is the standard interpretation of how Scharnhorst's enlightened notions of education

were rejected by a conservative class bent on preserving its aristocratic values, despite changing times and the influx of many middle-class officers into the army. "Right thinking" and service to the King and Kaiser, as Clemente states, were the basis for Prussian officer selection and education from 1860 to 1914. Yet, this was nothing new, either: The same had been true ever since the time of Frederick the Great, who wanted only officers from the nobility.

It is important to realize, however, that the armies of France, England, Austria, and Russia had similar constraints throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. Before 1914, every European army suffered from an aristocratic reaction to the revolutionary spirit of the Enlightenment, which championed the idea of an aristocracy of education, not birth. To claim that Prussian military education declined from 1860 to 1914 is thus a qualitative judgment that is very difficult to prove. If it declined, in relation to what? To French, English, Austrian, or Russian military education? By every account, the Prussian system for developing combat leaders was superior to that of any other great power of Europe. In fact, it probably has not been equaled since by any other army in the modern world.

What really happened is simple. The military education of the officers of Prussia and other European countries became less general and humanistic (which Scharnhorst had emphasized) and more technical and professional. Military education thus moved away from "the art of war" and embraced "the science of war," and the result was catastrophic. As French Marshal Joseph J.C. Joffre wrote in 1916, "It takes sixteen thousand dead to train a French division commander."

Nevertheless, this is an important book. It brings together in exhaustive detail a great mass of material (memoranda, curricula, admission requirements, selection standards, personal accounts) essential to an understanding of Prussian officer education. And because this book is in English, U.S. soldiers now have an opportunity to study one of the finest military education systems in history.

**THREE MARSHALS OF FRANCE: LEADERSHIP AFTER TRAUMA.** By Anthony Clayton. Brassey's (UK), 1992. 203 Pages. Reviewed by Major Harold E. Rough, Jr., United States Army.

French military leadership, according to Dr. Anthony Clayton, was not totally bankrupt during World War II and its immediate aftermath.

This interesting book is "essentially a study of general officer leadership at and above division level" of Alphonse Juin, Jean de Lattre de Tassigny, and Philippe Leclerc de Hauteclocque. All three of these men held major commands after the ignominious and traumatic French debacle of 1940, as well as during the post-war years, and all three became Marshals of France (the last two posthumously).

Author Anthony Clayton, a Senior Lecturer at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, introduces the topic by describing what he believes to be the unique attributes of French military leadership, which focus on *passion*: romantic nationalism, Christian beliefs, and tensions "between volatile temperament and a profession requiring order and discipline," among others. Clayton further elaborates that in the pursuit of French interests, passion could take many forms, including guile, tact, charm, temper, flattery, sulking, and arrogance. Within this framework, he chronicles and evaluates the formative years, World War II, and post-war commands and experiences of the three protagonists.

The author's assessment of the generalship of these three officers is generally highly laudatory, and his often unsubstantiated claims (there is only one footnote in the entire book) seem to derive from generalizations and Francophilia. The performance of these generals was often characterized by friction, jealousy, and at times refusal to obey orders and undeserved condemnation and courts-martial, rather than admiration. The fact that they were French does not excuse such unconscionable military behavior.

A dozen superb photographs, plus seven well-drawn maps, superbly supplement the text. Biographical notes on the three main subjects and a bibliographical appendix are especially useful. But the reader should keep his French-English dictionary at his side to translate the numerous French phrases he will find scattered throughout the book.

Practical experience is surely the best way to learn leadership, although the diligent study of historical military commanders is also worthwhile. One can always learn from good, bad—or just different—styles of leadership. This thought-provoking book makes an excellent contribution to military history as well as to leadership.

## RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

**A HESSIAN DIARY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.** By Johann Conrad Dohla. Translated and edited by Bruce E. Burgoyne. From the 1913 Bayreuth edition by W. Baron Von Waldenfels. University of Oklahoma

Press, 1993. \$13.95, Softbound.

**ROGUE WARRIOR.** By Richard Marcinko with John Weisman. Pocket Books, 1993. \$5.99, Softbound.

**THE COMPLETE WARGAMES HANDBOOK (Revised Edition): HOW TO PLAY, DESIGN, & FIND THEM.** By James F. Dunnigan. William Morrow & Company, 1992. 317 Pages. \$12.00, Softbound.

**MEDIEVAL CHINESE ARMIES 1260-1520.** Men-At-Arms Series, No. 251. By Chris Peers. Color plates by David Sque. Osprey, 1992. 47 Pages.

**WELLINGTON'S HIGHLANDERS.** Men-At-Arms Series 253. By Stuart Reid. Color plates by Bryan Fosten. Osprey, 1992. 47 Pages.

**WEHRMACHT AUXILIARY FORCES.** Men-At-Arms Series, No. 254. By Nigel Thomas and Carlos Caballero. Color plates by Simon McCouaig. Osprey, 1992. 47 Pages.

**FLAGS OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.** Men-at-Arms Series, No. 252. (First of a three-volume set.) By Philip Katcher. Color plates by Rick Scollin. Osprey, 1992. 47 Pages.

**VIETNAM MARINES 1965-1973.** By Charles Melson. Color plates by Paul Harmon. Elite series No. 43. Osprey, 1992. 63 Pages.

**THE BATTLE BOOK: CRUCIAL CONFLICTS IN HISTORY FROM 1469 BC TO THE PRESENT.** By Bryan Perrett. Sterling Publishing, 1993. 320 Pages. \$24.95.

**THE SOLDIER'S CHRONOLOGY.** By James W. Atkinson. Garland Publishing, 1993. 620 Pages. \$93.00.

**THE LANDSCAPE TURNED RED: THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM.** By Stephen W. Sears. Published in hard cover in 1983. Tichnor & Fields, 1993. 431 Pages. \$12.95, Softbound.

**MODERN BOMBERS AND ATTACK PLANES.** By George Sullivan. Facts on File, 1992. 128 Pages. \$17.95.

**THE THIRD TEXAS CAVALRY IN THE CIVIL WAR.** By Douglas Hale. University of Oklahoma Press, 1993. \$28.95.

**HITLER'S JAPANESE CONFIDANT: GENERAL OSHIMA HIROSHI AND MAGIC INTELLIGENCE, 1941-1945.** By Carl Boyd. University Press of Kansas, 1993. 272 Pages. \$25.00.

**THE FATEFUL PEBBLE: AFGHANISTAN'S ROLE IN THE FALL OF THE SOVIET EMPIRE.** By Anthony Arnold. Presidio Press, 1993. 224 Pages. \$30.00.

**HEROES OF WW II.** By Edward F. Murphy. Published in hard cover in 1990. Ballantine Books, 1991. \$4.99, Softbound.

**SACRED VESSELS: THE CULT OF THE BATTLESHIP AND THE RISE OF THE U.S. NAVY.** By Robert L. O'Connell. Westview Press, 1991. 409 Pages. \$24.95.

**NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES: 1991-1992.** By George Bush. Brassey's (US), 1991. 135 Pages. \$14.00.

**THE CIVIL WAR DICTIONARY.** Revised and updated. By Mark Mayo Boatner III. Vintage Books, 1991. 1,008 Pages. \$18.00.